Mental Health Institutes in Orissa

33. MS PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mental health institutes in Orissa suffer from inadequacies in manpower and infrastructure;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is a steady increase in mental disorders in the State; and

(c) if so, the help rendered by Government to the cash-strapped State to effectively control this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) As per the information place before the Hon'ble Supreme Court by the State Governments, there is general shortage of manpower and infrastrucure in the field of mental health in the country including the state of orissa. There is no evidence to show that there is a steady increase in mental disorders in the general population of the State. However, following the1999 super cyclone disaster, higher rates of adjustment disorder, depression, suidical ideas and alcoholic dependence have been reported amongst the affected population.

(c) The Government have formulated the National Mental Health Programme during the Tenth Five Year Plan to promote mental health care throughout the country, including the State of Orissa.The main components of the programme are District Mental Health Programme to provide community based services, strengthening of mental hospitals, upgradation of psychiatric units of medical colleges/hospitals, IEC activities and research.

Corneal Blindness

34. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a steady increase in the number of corneally blind people in the country in general and in Delhi in particular;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, state wise and year wise;

(c) the steps taken to prevent the corneal blindness during the same period and the success achieved in this regard;

(d) whether it is a fact that arrangements for collection of corneas are woefully inadequate in the National Capital Territory of Delhi; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No data are available to suggest increase in the corneally blind people.

(c) Do's & Don'ts are issued from time to time during the festival of Diwali and Holi to avoid Eye Injuries from Crackers, Synthetic Gulal, Baloons etc. which can lead to corneal blindness.Prophylactic vitamin A solution is given to young Children to prevent nutritional blindness.

(d) and (e) There is scope for improvement in the arrangement for collection of corneas in the NCT, Delhi. To get more corneas, Hospital Cornea Retrieval Programme is being organized with the support of major hospitals, medical colleges, Non-government sector, Army/ESI/ Railway Hospitals of the country. Training of Hospital staff is organized on Grief Counselling for mortivating relatives of terminally ill patients for donating the eyes. There is shift in the focus from "Pledging of Eyes" to actual collection of Eyes. To get more corneas and to make people aware about Eye Donation, National Fortnight is celebrated from 25th August to 8th September annually.

Foreign Assignments of Government Doctors

35. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of doctors of Government Hospitals of Delhi who have not returned and joined their duties after completing their foreign assignments despite government's directives to do so; and